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Mexico's OAS Stand Wins Praise

MEXICO CITY, July 28 (UPI)—Mexico appeared likely today to reject a hemispheric call for sanctions against Cuba as support increased for its "hands off" policy toward Fidel Castro's Communist government.

Messages backing Mexico's vote last week in Washington against diplomatic and economic sanctions came from editorial, labor and political quarters, including President Adolpho Lopez Mateos's governing party.

Vicente Sanchez Gavito, Ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS) was due back Wednesday from Washington to report to Lopez Mateos, now meeting with his top aides to formulate Mexico's position. Mexico, Uruguay, Chile and Bolivia, the only nations still maintaining diplomatic relatons with Cuba, voted against the sanctions.

The majority vote is considered binding on these countries since all four are bound by the Rio Treaty of 1947 to abide by the measures adopted at the OAS meeting. However, the clause calling upon OAS members not to maintain diplomatic relations with Cuba set no time limit on compliance.

The strongest indication that Mexico will refuse to penalize Cuba came from Sen. Antonio Mena Brito, chairman of the Congressional Foreign Relations Committee. He was quoted as saying: "I don't believe that Mexico has to put into practice acts that are repugnant to its jurisdical spirit and traditional principles."

The press, which generally praised the government's stand in Washington, gave prominent display to Castro's remarks last night that Mexico might act as an intermediary between the United States and Cuba.

The independent newspaper, El Universal, said Venezuela's charge of aggression against Cuba—the act which prompted the OAS meeting—was based on happenings under former Venezuelan President Romulo Betancourt. "Venezuela is in peace," the newspaper said.